Parbati, Kalisindh, Chambal, Damanganga, Pinjal, Par, Tapi, Narmada, Ken, Betwa, Pamba, Achankovil, Bedti, Varda, Netravati and Hemavati. The Himalayan Rivers are Kosi, Mechi, Ghagra, Gandak, Ganga, Yamuna, Sarda, Sabarmati, Sone, Brahmaputra, Domadar and Subernarekha. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan and to prepare feasibility report of the links. NWDA has completed prefeasibility report of 31 water transfer links and feasibility report of 5 water transfer links. Implementation of Water transfer link proposal depends on how soon the detailed project report are prepared, consensus is reached among the concerned States and availability of funds.

Water for irrigation

†1351. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of water flowing from the rivers of the country and the percentage "of the water used for irrigation and drinking purposes;

(b) the percentage of cultivable land available in the country that is not irrigated for lack of irrigation facilities;

(c) whether Government are willing to prepare a plan to provide 'water to every farm after having time-bound fruitful consultations with various States of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Average Annual Flow available in the rivers of the country is around 1869 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). As per the present assessment, 750 BCM of water including replenishable Groundwater is being used for various purposes such as drinking, irigation, industrial, energy, etc. Out of this, the percentage used for irrigation and drinking purposes is about 88%.

(b) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1996-97 (latest), the Net Sown Area in the country is 142.82 Million hectare. Out of this, the Net Irrigated Area is 55.14 million hectare constituting 38.61%.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) All types of irrigation projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the State Governments from their own allocation of plan funds and there is no proposal before the Union Government to prepare a plan to provide 'water to every farm'.

Source of River Saraswati

†1352. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that water sources of river Saraswati, has been located in the desert area of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any plan for conducting study for utilising these water sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board in association with the Ground Water Department, Rajasthan, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, Regional Remote Sensing Application Centre, Jodhpur and Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad has taken up a study to confirm existence of previous course of river Saraswati.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

Clearance to Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme

1353. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal relating to Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme for utilisation of 6.00 TMC out of 734 TMC of the Karnataka State's share in terms of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal Award is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain aspects like Barrage and Canal designs, etc., in respect of the Scheme still remain to be cleared by Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay and by when the necessary clearance is likely to be accorded?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.